REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 5, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 1-10 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,119,001 to Delis et al. The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 1 and 6, and/or any claims dependent therefrom.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-5 depend, recites a method for the management of subscriber functions. The method is used to manage subscriber functions in a telecommunication network. The subscriber functions are stored in records. The method includes the steps of defining one or more default function sets, each default function set including one or more subscriber functions of a digital telephone exchange defined as default functions and partitioning subscribers of the digital telephone exchange into default subscribers and special subscribers. The default subscribers are those subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to one of the default function sets and the special subscribers are those subscribers whose subscriber functions do not correspond to any of

the default function sets. The method also includes the steps of storing subscriber functions consistent with the default function sets in default records, each default record being common to all the default subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to the subscriber functions in the default record concerned and storing subscriber functions for each special subscriber in subscriber-specific records, each subscriber-specific record being specific to the special subscriber concerned. The method further includes the steps of reading the subscriber functions for each default subscriber from the default record concerned and reading the subscriber functions for each special subscriber from the subscriber-specific record for the subscriber concerned.

Claim 6, upon which claims 7-10 depend, recites a system for the management of subscriber functions. The system includes a telecommunication network (1). The system also includes subscriber functions for subscribers in the telecommunication network and a number of records (2), in which the subscriber functions are stored. The system includes one or more default records in which subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored and from which the subscriber functions for default subscribers are read and one or more subscriber-specific records in which the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored and from which they are read.

As will be discussed below, the cited prior art reference of Delis et al. fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Delis et al. discloses a wireless telephone network proving wireless telephone service within a given service area. The network includes a plurality of interconnected

switching nodes. Each switching node is connected to a home location register through an associated visitor location register. The switching nodes may be further connected to at least one associated base station control. Col. 2, line 63 – Col. 3, line 16. A mobile station may register with a network serving its home service area or a visited service area by transmitting a registration message to the serving switching node. The switching node sends a registration notification message, including the mobile identification number, to the visitor location register where it is processed to determine whether a subscriber profile exists for the mobile station. If it does not, in the case of a roaming mobile station, the visitor location register forwards the registration notification message to the home location register. If this is a first roamer registration, the home location register initiates an activation procedure for automatically defining and connecting the roaming subscriber within the network. The activation procedure includes the selection of a temporary subscriber number for the mobile station and the definition of a service profile for the subscriber. Col. 3, line 57 – Col. 5, line 54.

Applicant respectfully submits that Delis et al. does not teach or suggest the elements of each of the presently pending claims. Claim 1, in part, recites partitioning subscribers of the digital telephone exchange into default subscribers and special subscribers, the default subscribers are those subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to one of the default function sets and the special subscribers are those subscribers whose subscriber functions do not correspond to any of the default function sets. Claims 1 and 6, in part, also recite one or more default records (2^{00}, 2^{01},..., 2^{0N}), in

which subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored and from which the subscriber functions for default subscribers are read; and one or more subscriber-specific records $(2^1, 2^2,..., 2^N)$, in which the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored and from which they are read. Delis et al. fails to teach or suggest, as recited in claims 1 and 6, partitioning subscriber records into default records and subscriber-specific records, wherein the default records are used to store and retrieve subscriber functions consistent with default function sets and the default records are common to subscribers and wherein the subscriber specific records are specific to each subscriber and are used to store and retrieve special functions for each special subscriber. Delis et al. merely teaches defining, in a conventional manner, a default service profile that is used for all roaming subscriber. There is no teaching or suggestion in Delis et al. of storing subscriber functions consistent with default function sets in the default records and from which the subscriber functions for default subscribers are read as recited in claims 1 and 6. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Delis et al. of storing subscriber functions for each special subscriber in one or more subscriber-specific records from which they are read as recited in claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn because Delis et al. does not teach or suggest each feature of claims 1 and 6 and hence, dependent claim 2-5 and 7-10 thereon.
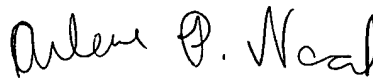
As noted previously, claims 1-10 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore

respectfully requested that all of claims 1-10 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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